

REMARKS

Claims 1-45 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-24, 26-30, 32-41, and 43 currently stand rejected. Claims 5, 11, 25, 31, 44, and 45 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 5, 11, 25, 31, 44, and 45 are amended, and claims 1-4, 6-10, 20-24, 26-30, 40-41, and 43, are canceled herein. Reconsideration of the Application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Cancellation Of Rejected Claims

In the Office Action of March 22, 2006, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-4, 6-10, 20-24, 26-30, 40-41, and 43 are rejected. Because of the Applicant's wish to expedite the allowance and issuance of the present Application, Applicant therefore refrains from further discussing the cited references, and instead, herein cancels currently rejected claims 1-4, 6-10, 20-24, 26-30, 40-41, and 43 without prejudice.

The Applicant expressly states that the rejected claims are not cancelled for reasons of patentability. The rejected claims are cancelled solely to expedite the allowance and issuance of the Application. Furthermore, the Applicant also reserves the right to seek allowance of any additional claims in Applications that may claim priority in the present Application.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action Summary, the Examiner indicates that claim 42 is allowed. However, in paragraph 3, the Examiner contradictorily states that claim 43 is the allowed claim. Since the Examiner also refers (in paragraph 3) to claim 43 as a “means-plus-function claim”, Applicant assumes that there is a typographical error, and submits that paragraph 3 should correctly refer to claim 42 as being the allowed claim, since claim 42 is the only means-plus-function claim.

In paragraph 5, the Examiner indicates that claims 5, 11, 25, 31, 44, and 45 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant therefore herein amends claims 5, 11, 25, 31, 44, and 45 in independent form to include the foregoing indicated allowable subject matter, along with the limitations of the corresponding base claim and any intervening claims, to thereby place claims 5, 11, 25, 31, 44, and 45 in condition for immediate allowance. The remaining non-cancelled claims depend from respective corresponding ones of the foregoing independent claims, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

Summary

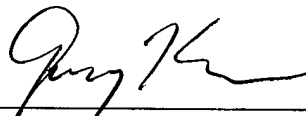
Applicant submits that the foregoing amendments and remarks overcome the Examiner's rejections. Because the cited references, or the Examiner's citations thereto, do not teach or suggest the claimed invention, and in light of the differences between the claimed invention and the cited prior art, Applicants therefore submit that the claimed invention is patentable over the cited art, and respectfully request the Examiner to allow claims 5, 11-19, 25, 31-39, 44, and 45, so that the present Application may issue in a timely manner. If there are any questions concerning this amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

5/5/06

By: _____



Gregory J. Koerner, Reg. No. 38,519
Redwood Patent Law
1291 East Hillsdale Blvd., Suite 205
Foster City, CA 94404
Tel: (650) 358-4000